



**Testimony in Support of SB 753**  
**An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining**  
**Legislative Districts**

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Victoria Chung. I am a resident of New Haven and am testifying to communicate my strong support for Connecticut SB 753, *An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining Legislative Districts*.

Prison gerrymandering is a gross injustice of the right to vote that we consider so crucial to our representative democracy. A democracy is not just if it overshadows the liberties of incarcerated individuals, and quite frankly, I am disgusted at the current way elections in Connecticut work against these individuals. SB 753 would allow for the fair and proper representation of people who should not have their humanity stripped of them, as is the case right now.

Stopping the practice of counting incarcerated people as residents of the districts in which their correctional facilities are located is imperative to increasing the representativeness of Connecticut's General Assembly. The counting of incarcerated persons, the vast majority of whom cannot vote, as members of the legislative districts in which their carceral facilities are located affords inappropriate electoral power to said districts. Moreover, incarcerated persons who can vote must do so in the districts where they lived prior to incarceration. The status quo inaccurately invests legislative authority and exacerbates racial inequities in government, given that Connecticut districts housing correctional facilities have a far higher proportion of white voters than compared to local incarcerated populations.

The current system of voting in Connecticut disproportionately marginalizes communities of color, which is an extension of the systemic racism and "War on Crime" that we saw in the late twentieth century. It is inherently undemocratic to count inmates in population metrics to bring more power to majority white legislative districts while simultaneously denying them the right to vote. Issues of racial injustice undoubtedly persist to this day, and prison gerrymandering propagates this system of inequity. Many consistently blue states have already started to address

the prominent issue of prison gerrymandering, and it is time Connecticut does the same in order to carry justice by these incarcerated individuals.

Every Connecticuter deserves equal representation in the state legislature. I ask the committee to consider passing S.B. 753 to enshrine that same principle in law.

Sincerely,

Victoria Chung  
New Haven, CT